SHRAGARN NS *'Time bears away all things—even the memory'*

Thomas Melia

IN AUGUST 2007 a very well produced book was published to mark the reunion of past pupils of Finiskill NS However the story of Shragarn NS, which was the forerunner of Finiskill school, was omitted from the publication.

Shragarn school opened in October 1855. It was enrolled with the Education Board on 1.5.1856 (roll no. 7435) with John Eivers PP Mohill as patron and Thomas Mahon, a native of Ballinaglera, as Principal.

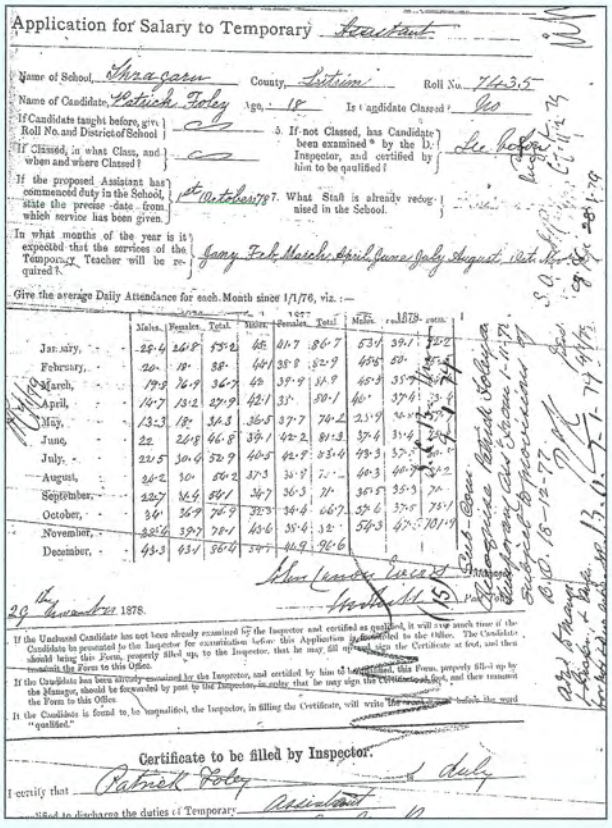
In July 1857 Mr Mahon completed his 6 month teacher training course in Marlboro St Dublin.

In January 1861 he transferred to Eslin boys school where in 1876 he was the first Leitrim teacher to win the Carlisle and Blake premium. He retired in 1897 and was a member of Mohill Rural District Council for six years from 1899.

Thomas Mahon, First Principal in Shragarn School

Shragarn school had 6 other principals during the 1860's, James McGarty, Thomas Reynolds, Pat Duggan who was drowned in Lough Rinn on July 17 1864, John Gallagher, John Caffrey and John Foley. Shragarn school came to Finiskill townland after John Foley was appointed Principal on 25.1.1869. Mr Foley who was a class I teacher had a degree from Queens College. He was married to Catherine Mahon a sister of Thomas Mahon. He had taught previously in Newtowngore (roll no. 5840) and Bawnboy, where most of his family were born. His daughter Julia was born in Finiskill in 1869. In 1878 the average number of pupils attending Shragarn had risen to over 100.

Four of his children were teachers, Ann, Lucy, Pat was assistant in Shragarn before becoming principal in Fearglas school in 1881. Pat's daughter Juliana was principal in Drimmieen school for many years. Mary Foley taught in Shragarn and Finiskill from 1877 to 1901. John Foley retired on 30.6.1883. On 1.7.1883 Michael Boyle, who had begun his teaching career as monitor in Shragarn, was appointed Principal. On the same day the school moved across the road to Ohill townland. ED 1/49 and 50 in The National Archives bear testament to the Trojan work of Dean John Eivers in acquiring teachers of the highest calibre for the catholic schools of Mohill parish. Throughout its life Shragarn school existed in poor conditions frequently drawing down the wrath of the school inspectors in ED.2/126. But help was at hand with the appointment of a dynamic young Parish Priest to Mohill in 1881. Francis Donohoe raised over £400 in one week during October 1881 to build a new church in Mohill.



Application for Salary to Temporary Assistant

Name of School, Shragarn County, Leitrim Roll No. 7435

Name of Candidate, Patrick Foley Age, 18 Is Candidate Classed? No

If Candidate taught before, give Roll No. and District of School — 3. If not Classed, has Candidate been examined by the D. Inspector, and certified by him to be qualified? Yes

If Classed, in what Class, and when and where Classed? —

If the proposed Assistant has commenced duty in the School, state the precise date from which service has been given. 1st October 1877. What Staff is already recognised in the School.

In what months of the year is it expected that the services of the Temporary Teacher will be required? January, February, March, April, June, July, August, 1st Nov.

Give the average Daily Attendance for each Month since 1/1/76, viz.:—

	1876			1877			1878	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January,	29.4	26.8	55.2	68	61.7	86.7	63.4	39.1	102
February,	20.	18.	38.	44.1	38.8	82.9	69.8	58.	
March,	19.8	16.9	36.7	42	39.9	81.9	45.8	35.7	
April,	14.7	13.2	27.9	42.1	31.	80.1	40.	37.4	
May,	13.3	18.	31.3	36.5	37.7	74.2	23.9		
June,	22.	24.8	46.8	39.1	42.2	81.3	37.4	31.4	
July,	22.5	30.4	52.9	40.5	42.8	83.4	43.3	37.5	
August,	24.2	30.	54.2	37.3	36.8	74.	60.3	40.7	
September,	22.7	14.4	37.1	34.7	36.3	71.	36.5	36.3	
October,	34.	36.9	70.9	32.3	34.4	66.7	38.6	37.5	
November,	38.6	39.7	78.1	43.6	38.6	82.	54.3	47.	
December,	43.3	43.1	86.4	34.1	41.9	76.6			

29 November 1878.

If the Unclassed Candidate has not been already examined by the Inspector and certified as qualified, it will save much time if the Candidate be presented to the Inspector for examination before this Application is forwarded to the Office. The Candidate should bring their Form, properly filled up, to the Inspector, that he may fill up and sign the Certificate at foot, and then transmit the Form to this Office.

If the Candidate has been already examined by the Inspector, and certified by him to be qualified, this Form, properly filled up by the Manager, should be forwarded by post by the Inspector, in order that he may sign the Certificate at foot, and then transmit the Form to this Office.

It the Candidate is found to be unqualified, the Inspector, in filling the Certificate, will write the word "not" before the word "qualified."

Certificate to be filled by Inspector.

I certify that Patrick Foley duly

qualified to discharge the duties of Temporary Assistant

On Monday May 16 1887 over 100 pupils transferred from Shragarn school to the new St Bartholmews' school in Finiskill with Michael Boyle as Principal and Mary Foley as Assistant.

SOURCES: ED.S L,2,4, NATIONAL ARCHIVES & LEITRIM CO LIBRARY

Name that Main Street! *(from page 72).* 1 Mohill 2 *also* Mohill 3 Ballinamore 4 Drumsna 5 Carrick 6 Newtowngore

Name the Year *(from page 184).* 1 2004 2 2001 3 2005 4 2005 5 1999 6 2004 7 1999 8 2005 9 2003 10 2005 11 2005 12 1999 13 1999 14 2004 15 1999 16 2004 17 1999 18 2001 19 1999 20 2005 21 1999